



For Immediate Release: 08.06.04

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Jim Budrick
Village Engineer
708.358.5720

Schedule to Limit Impact on Business Districts

Resurfacing of Oak Park Avenue from North to Roosevelt Could Begin in Mid-August

A long-planned project to resurface the entire length of Oak Park Avenue from North Avenue to Roosevelt Road could begin as early as mid-August.

In addition to resurfacing the important north-south artery, the project also includes rebuilding sewer catch basins, replacing curbs where needed and modernizing 12 traffic signals along the avenue's three-mile route.

"This project has been a part of our long-term capital improvement plan since 1999," said Village Manager Carl Swenson. "A construction project of this size in this area will certainly create some short-term inconveniences, but keeping this important Village roadway in good condition is essential to community."

Swenson said a key component of the planning for the project has been working with the businesses along the route to stage the work to limit its impact on their customers. Work likely will begin at North Avenue and move south to Lake Street, then shift to Roosevelt Road and move north to Madison Street, completing the work before the end of the construction season in early November. Crews would return in the spring to finish the final segment of the roadway.

"Following a two-season schedule of fall and spring should mean the Lake Street-Oak Park Avenue and Oak Park-Eisenhower business districts are not impacted by construction during the busy holiday shopping season," he said.

Work is not expected to disrupt east-west traffic on Lake Street, which was reconstructed in 2001. However, overnight parking in some areas will be affected. Arrangements will be made to provide alternate parking for permit holders as the work progresses into specific zones.

"The Village's project oversight includes having a resident engineer on duty in a field office near the construction," said Village Engineer Jim Budrick. "Residents who have questions or concerns will be able to call the on-site engineer for specific information on any impacts the work may be having on them."

-more-

Budrick said the telephone number of the resident engineer will be on construction signs placed periodically along the work route. The contractor is Plote Construction Co. of Elgin, which was selected through a competitive bid process.

The \$3.8 million dollar project is funded primarily by federal dollars administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The Village must compete with 19 other communities in this region alone for federal dollars to improve major streets.

“Oak Park has been very successful in securing the needed funds for major street improvements over the last several years,” Budrick said. “Ridgeland Avenue, Lake Street and Chicago Avenue are among the most recent examples of the Village’s success in securing federal highway dollars for street improvements.”

For more information, call 358.5720 or email publicwork@oak-park.us.

###